

**ANIMAL HEALTH**

***Primary Agency:*** Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

***Support Agencies:*** American Red Cross (ARC)  
Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Waste Management  
Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Water  
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Department of Safety – Fire Standards & Training – EMS  
Fish and Game Department  
NH Federation of Humane Organizations  
NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
NH Veterinary Medical Association (NHVMA)  
University of NH Cooperative Extension (UNHCE)

***I. Introduction***

***A. Purpose***

To provide a coordinated response in the management and containment of any communicable disease resulting in an animal health emergency affecting the health, welfare, and safety of New Hampshire’s wildlife, livestock, residents, and visitors, as well as responding to pet, farm, and wild animal care needs before, during, and after a significant natural disaster or man-made event.

***B. Scope***

Animal Health provides the framework for managing and coordinating the activities and resources required to affect the rapid containment of any reportable and/or communicable disease that poses a significant threat to the health and welfare of animals and people in the State. This will include pets (domestic and exotics), wildlife, and livestock within the State. Animal Health will also provide for the overall management, coordination, and prioritization of Statewide resources that support pet, farm, and wild animal needs in the event of an emergency or disaster.

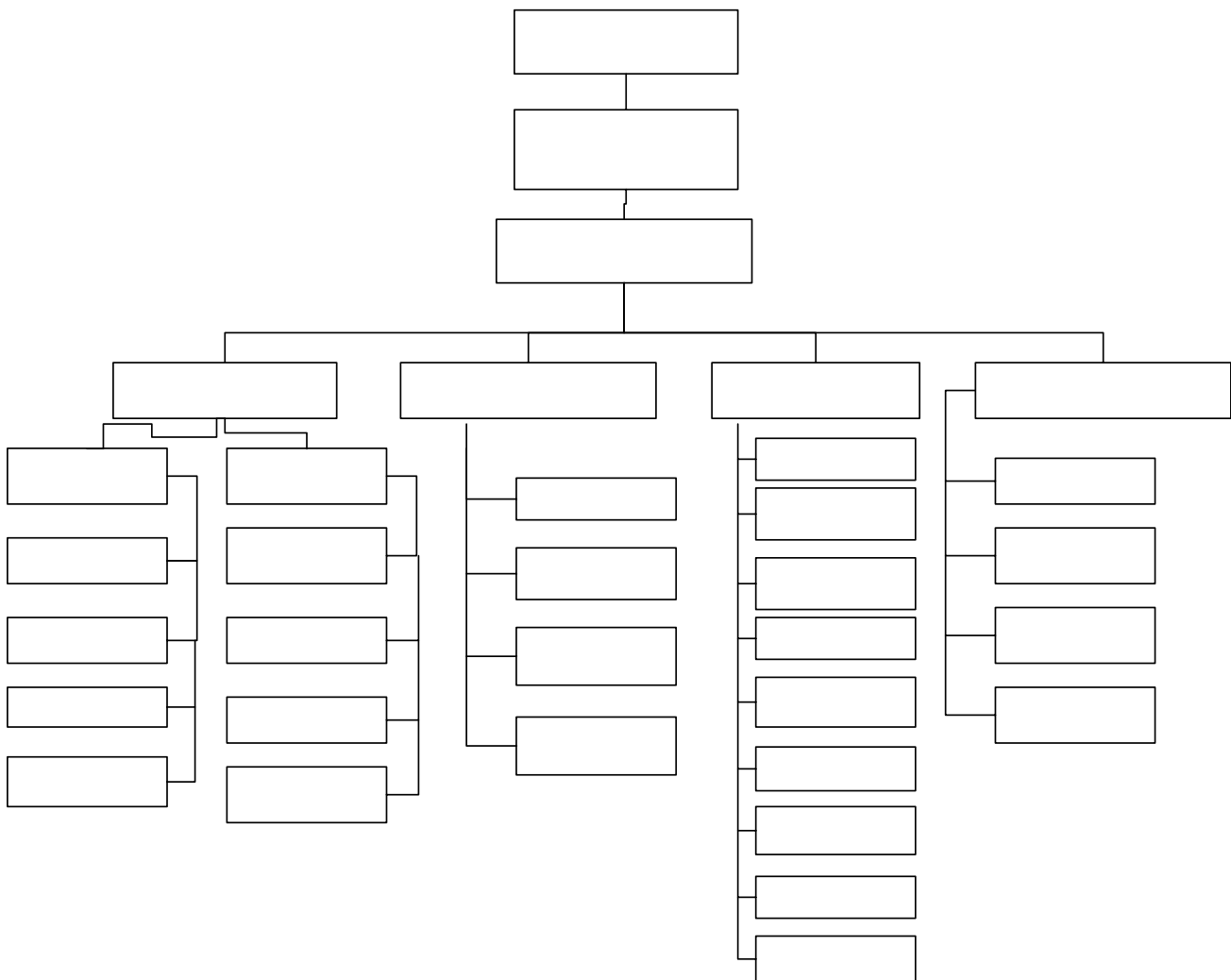
## **II. Concept of Operations**

### A. General

Animal Health will manage and coordinate all activities/operations involved in animal health emergencies in the State, as requested, and that are beyond the capabilities of the local jurisdictions. Animal Health will also provide operational guidelines for the care and support of animals in the event of a disaster.

### B. Organization

1. The functional organization structure of Animal Health is shown in **Figure 16-1, Functional Organization of Animal Health**.



**Figure 16-1, Functional Organization of Animal Health**

2. Animal Health will be composed of a primary agency Coordinator and other Assistants, as needed. Once the ESF is operational at the EOC it shall function under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Agriculture and will coordinate the activities of Animal Health with the EOC Operations Officer.
3. The Incident Commander will accomplish interagency coordination at the time of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak or a disaster where animals are in peril and need rescue and care. The size and nature of the response will depend on whether a State or Federal disaster declaration has been issued. With a FAD, the State Veterinarian will share incident command duties with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Animal and Plant Health Inspections Services (APHIS) – Veterinarian Services (VS), Area Veterinarian In Charge (AVIC). The request for activation of the EOC and support from State and non-state agencies depends on the disease, its public impact, and the size of the spread.
4. ***Specialized Teams/Units***
  - a. **Veterinarian Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs)** – A component of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and will be activated by the HHS Director of the Office of Emergency Response (OER) in consultation with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Coordinator of Emergency Planning.
  - b. **Euthanasia Team** – The Incident or Co-incident Commanders would activate the USDA – APHIS – VS team, in the event of a FAD outbreak.
  - c. **Disposal Team** – The Incident or Co-incident Commanders for Animal Health would activate this team in the event large numbers of animals or poultry were euthanized during a FAD.
  - d. **American Humane Association** – Would activate during an animal disaster at the request of the Co-incident Commanders for Animal Health.
  - e. **Human Society of the US (HSUS)** – Would activate during an animal disaster at the request of the Co-incident Commanders for Animal Health.
  - f. **NH Federation of Humane Organizations** – Would activate during an animal disaster at the request of the Animal Health Co-incident Commanders to support Animal Health operations.
  - g. **Animal Appraisal Team** – Would be activated by the Animal Health Co-incident Commanders (from NH Agriculture, Markets and Food

and the AVIC) during a FAD incident. This team would provide for the appraisal of affected animals, for indemnification purposes, that are culled in an effort to contain the spread of the disease.

- h. **Disease Surveillance Team** – The USDA – APHIS – VS team would be activated by the Animal Health Co-incident Commanders during a FAD incident to assist in disease diagnosis.
- 5. ***Declaration Process of a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD)*** would occur in the following sequence:
  - a. Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets and Food
  - b. Governor of the State of New Hampshire
  - c. Secretary of Agriculture via Administrators of USDA – APHIS
- 6. ***Operational Facilities/Sites***
  - a. Room 232-A, Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
  - b. USDA – APHIS – VS Temporary Command Center
  - c. NH Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Kendall Hall, UNH

**C. Notification and Activation**

- 1. Upon notification the primary agency for Animal Health will notify the Department of Safety – Bureau of Emergency Management (EM) of an impending or actual animal/human health emergency posing a significant threat to New Hampshire’s agricultural health and safety. EM will request agency representatives to activate Animal Health operations.
- 2. Animal Health may be activated at the request of an appropriate agency through EM when an emergency condition exists and requires the support of Animal Health.
- 3. Upon activation, the Animal Health representative will implement operating procedures and support agency notifications as outlined in existing protocols.
- 4. Deployment of personnel and resources will take place within the framework of the EOC direction and control decision-making process.

**D. Emergency Response Actions**

1. The primary agency representative will establish operations at the EOC as soon as possible after the notification and activation of Animal Health.
2. The EOC Liaison Officer or the Operations Officer will brief the Animal Health representative upon arrival, update support agency staff, and monitor activities.
3. Determine response needs and available resources.
4. If the emergency involves a foreign animal disease outbreak, the Animal Health representative will coordinate with the Commissioner of Agriculture and the EM Coordinator to request a Secretary's Emergency or Extraordinary Emergency Declaration, as appropriate.
5. Maintain complete logs of actions taken, reports, and resource capabilities and shortfalls.

**E. Recovery Actions**

1. Once recovery efforts have been initiated, Animal Health will assist, coordinate, and facilitate the operational needs required for site remediation and restoration, as needed. Those requirements will include personnel and resources necessary for sentinel surveillance and monitoring for an extended period time, when necessary.
2. Coordination with Federal assets Public Works and Engineering may also be required to establish emergency access to an impacted area (e.g., building temporary roads into an affected area).

**F. Deactivation**

Partial deactivation of Animal Health would occur based upon the extent of the current response and recovery actions and at the discretion of the EM Coordinator. Full deactivation would occur at the termination of the operational elements of Animal Health.

**III. Roles and Responsibilities**

**A. Primary Agency – Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food**

1. Prioritize resource requests and allocations, as needed, and maintain accurate accounting of all resources.
2. Coordinate with local jurisdictions to obtain needs assessment information.
3. Coordinate all State agriculture and animal health resources, as needed, to support local emergency operations.
4. Coordinate with Transportation to provide transportation resources for the movement of response personnel to and from incident sites.
5. Coordinate with Transportation to provide heavy equipment and operators to assist in the movement of animal carcasses to disposal sites and/or assist in actual disposal operations (e.g., burial, digging burn pits).
6. Coordinate with Communications and Alerting to establish and maintain communications with field operations, as necessary.
7. Coordinate with Hazardous Materials to support decontamination efforts and burial/burn sites in the affected areas.
8. Coordinate with Resource Support in the acquisition of additional personnel, equipment and supplies, as needed.
9. Quarantine or restrict animal movement, when necessary, for disease control and observation.
10. Coordinate with Health and Medical Services regarding issues such as, public health and safety issues that may arise from a zoonotic disease, obtaining additional medical supplies, critical incident stress management, etc., as needed.
11. Coordinate with Health and Medical Services to help ensure the health and safety of State emergency response personnel, including health risk assessment, injury prevention, and mental health services.
12. Coordinate with Health and Medical Services and Public Information for the release of public information regarding animal medical and mental health issues.
13. Coordinate with Law Enforcement and Security for the following:
  - a. Security / escorts, as required.
  - b. Identification of and ensuring the availability of access routes.
  - c. Coordination of perimeter and traffic control operations.

- d. Coordinating law enforcement personnel and resources from non-impacted areas in the State, as the situation warrants.
- 14. Establish and ensure the use of biosecurity measures, as appropriate.
- 15. Coordinate with Public Works and Engineering to assist in the disposal of animal carcasses and site remediation.
- 16. Coordinate resources, and provide support and agency representatives to Federal agencies, as required, in response to incidents/attacks involving agroterrorism.
- 17. Coordinate with other State and Federal departments/agencies in the provision of additional personnel and equipment to support emergency operations such as the following:
  - a. Department of Employment Security for heavy equipment and operators for debris removal operations, as needed.
  - b. US EPA – consultation on appropriate disposal sites and methods.
  - c. US Army Corps of Engineers – Carcass/debris disposal/removal.
  - d. USDA – APHIS – indemnity payments.
- 18. Establish sentinel surveillance measures, as appropriate.
- 19. Assist affected owners with repopulation efforts.
- 20. Ensure that an Incident Action Plan is developed for each operational period and that it is coordinated with the EOC Operations Officer and Information and Planning.
- 21. Collect and maintain the following ESF status information and coordinate with Information and Planning to ensure inclusion into the Situation Report (SITREP):
  - a. Status of Containment and Disposal efforts
  - b. Road Closures and Traffic Control Points
  - c. Statistical Information such as:

- 1) Number of Animals Culled/Destroyed (domestic and wild)
- 2) Number of Infected Farms/Operations
- 3) Collateral Impacts (e.g., crops)
  
- d. Status of Quarantine Areas
- e. Status of Commissioner's Declaration
- f. Unmet Needs
- g. Allocated Resources
- h. Economic Impacts
- i. Status of Critical Facilities (i.e., communications center, equipment storage sites, operational sites, etc.)
- j. Major Animal Health Issues/Activities
- k. Staffing and Resource Shortfalls
- l. Number of Animals Sheltered
- m. Number of Animals Treated
- n. Number of Animals Rescued and Identified

***B. Support Agencies***

***1. General***

- a. Provide operational support and resources, where appropriate, in support of the management of Animal Health.
- b. Coordinate agency response activities with the primary agency when performing assigned missions.
- c. Assist in the assessment of the State's capability to respond to an animal health emergency/disaster affecting the State.
- d. Provide periodic updates regarding agency activities and/or operations.
- e. Implement interagency agreements as needed to support Animal Health activities/operations.
- f. Document all agency activities, personnel and equipment utilization, and other expenditures, as required.

***2. American Red Cross (ARC)***

- a. Provide crisis-counseling services for victims and/or response personnel, as needed or requested.
- b. Assist in the provision of food, water, and rehabilitation services for response personnel.



- c. Provide assistance with Public Affairs Officers, as needed.
  - d. Provide American Red Cross volunteers – under the guidance of a veterinarian – with training in pet first aid for the emergency care of injured animals.
  - e. Provide animal information and education to the general public and commercial agencies in conjunction with the NH Veterinary Medical Association (NHVMA).
  - f. Provide temporary animal shelter candidates with overall shelter management training.
  - g. Assist with the sheltering of animals.
3. ***Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Waste Management***
- a. Approve the area(s) and method(s) for the disposal of animal carcasses.
  - b. Assist with the decontamination of infected, contact, and suspect premises.
4. ***Department of Environmental Services (DES) – Division of Water***
- a. Provide guidance regarding potential ground water contamination due to burial of contaminated animal carcasses.
  - b. Provide guidance and assistance in the appropriate methods to prevent contamination of water sources due to runoff during decontamination procedures.
5. ***Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)***
- a. Help ensure the health and safety of State emergency response personnel, including health risk assessment, injury prevention, and mental health services.
  - b. Provide and assist in the dissemination of public health and personal protective actions, as needed.
  - c. Ensure sanitation measures, and the safety of the public's food and water.
  - d. Assist in epidemiological investigations, including trace backs of infected animals, as needed.
  - e. Provide public health laboratory services, as needed.

- f. Provide alerting, notification, and updating via the Health Alert Network, as needed.
  - g. Provide guidance for the diagnosis, prevention, and control of zoonotic diseases.
- 6. ***Department of Safety – Fire Standards & Training - EMS***
  - a. Coordinate the provision of personnel and equipment to assist with the decontamination of designated sites and resources.
  - b. Coordinate and maintain training and certification for response personnel.
- 7. ***Fish and Game Department***
  - a. Provide personnel and vehicles to support monitoring and surveillance efforts involving wildlife populations in the State.
  - b. Assist in traffic control operations and enforcing quarantine areas, as requested and available.
  - c. Assist with diagnostic efforts to collect specimens and prepare laboratory submission forms.
  - d. Assist in containment and disposal operations.
  - e. Assist in quarantine or restrict animal movement, when necessary, for disease control and observation.
  - f. Provide expertise and assistance in the capture, control, and return of wild and exotic animals, if it is deemed in the best interest of the animals or the public to do so.
  - g. Provide wildlife information and education to the general public and commercial agencies.
- 8. ***NH Federation of Humane Organizations***
  - a. Provide animal shelter services, as requested.
  - b. Assist in the rescue of at risk or injured animals.
  - c. Assist in the euthanasia of infected/injured animals, as needed.

- d. Assist in the dissemination of animal health and protection information, as requested.
- e. Provide staffing and coordination resources.
- f. Provide damage assessment personnel to assist in determining what resources may be needed from outside the State.
- g. Assist in the coordination of outside assistance and relocation of animals outside the affected area.
- h. Facilitate the transportation of injured or stray domestic animals to animal care facilities or appropriate foster homes, as needed.
- i. Assist emergency response teams with animal-related problems.
- j. Coordinate with Law Enforcement and Security in the investigation of animal abuse and neglect complaints.
- k. Assist with the disposal of pet animal carcasses (shelters with appropriate facilities).
- l. Quarantine domestic animals that have bitten for observation regarding potential human rabies exposure (shelters with appropriate facilities).
- m. Facilitate the capture and impound of domestic animals at large.
- n. Coordinate with the American Red Cross to assist with the return of displaced animals to their owners.

9. ***New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory***

- a. Provide diagnostic services, as needed.
- b. Provide subject matter expertise (SMEs) and guidance, as needed.

10. ***NH Veterinary Medical Association (NHVMA)***

- a. Assist in the establishment of triage units for the care of injured animals.
- b. Provide emergency medical equipment and supplies for animals.
- c. Provide preventive care and/or treatment for rabies or other zoonotic diseases for animals in shelters, if necessary.

- d. Provide animal shelter support.
- e. Euthanize sick and injured animals, as needed.
- f. Assist with the return of owned animals, in coordination with the American Red Cross chapters, local animal control authorities, and members of the NH Federation of Humane Organizations.
- g. Provide documentation of injuries and deaths of animals for owners or for insurance purposes.
- e. Assist in the provision of veterinary pharmaceutical drugs and supplies from unimpacted areas.

11. ***University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNHCE)***

- a. Provide animal information and educational materials to the general public and commercial agencies.
- b. Mobilize volunteers to assist with the capture and care of animals.
- c. Assist in the coordination of resources for the relocation of livestock.
- d. Assist with the notification of Cooperative Extension Offices in the State.

12. ***USDA - Farm Services Agency***

- a. Provide resources for food, feed, and fertilizer in the State.
- b. Coordinate assistance from agricultural producers.
- c. In large-scale disasters, bring together USDA agencies to assist in recovery and coordination of other activities.
- d. Provide fair market valuation indemnity payments to owners of animals and materials requiring destruction.

13. ***USDA – APHIS – Veterinary Services (VS)***

- a. Provide technical and epidemiological expertise and laboratory diagnostic support for animal disease-related disasters.
- b. Provide veterinary and veterinary technician support for disasters in general.

- c. Provide assistance with animal carcass disposal procedures.
- d. Provide clerical support, as feasible, to prepare reports, gather information, and to provide ancillary support.
- e. Provide epidemiological support and analysis during an animal disease outbreak.

14. ***USDA – APHIS – Wildlife Services***

- a. Provide assistance in the capture, sedation, and handling of nuisance wildlife species, as needed.
- b. Provide expertise and assistance to the State Veterinarian, as requested, for wildlife concerns.
- c. Provide wildlife information and education to the general public and commercial agencies.
- d. Assist with species submission for zoonotic diseases monitoring.
- e. Coordinate integrated damage abatement activities, emphasizing non-lethal methods.
- f. Transport wildlife back to their natural environment, when appropriate.
- g. Euthanize and dispose of wildlife carcasses, when deemed necessary and appropriate.

***IV. References***

***A. Plans***

- 1. The New Hampshire RERP
- 2. The Federal Response Plan, April 1999
- 3. Federal Emergency Response Plan for An Outbreak of Foot-And-Mouth Disease or Other Highly Contagious Diseases.
- 4. U.S. Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001.
- 5. United States Code, Title 7, Chapter 48 – Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter.

6. NH Animal Health Plan
7. NH State/Federal Emergency Animal Disease and Disaster Plan

**B. Standard Operating Procedures/Guides (SOPs/SOGs)**

1. Animal Health Alert and Notification SOG
2. Animal Health Activation and Deactivation SOG
3. Animal Health Position Checklists
4. Commissioner of Agriculture Declaration Procedures/Guidelines

**C. Interagency Agreements/Compacts/Mutual Aid Agreements**

1. American Humane Association
2. Belknap County Fair
3. Cheshire Fair
4. Hopkinton State Fair
5. Humane Society for Greater Nashua
6. Humane Society of the United States
7. Lancaster Fair
8. Lancaster Humane Society
9. NH Association of Fairs and Expositions
  
10. NH Department of Health and Human Services
11. NH Farm Bureau
12. NH Veterinary Medical Association
13. Salem Animal Rescue League
14. Sandwich Fair
15. University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
16. USDA Farm Service Agency
17. USDA-APHIS Wildlife Service
18. White Mountain Animal League

**V. Attachments**

**A. Forms**

1. Chronological Event Log
2. Incident Report
3. Status Report
4. Message Form
5. EM Emergency Shift Change
6. State Agency Emergency Shift Schedule
7. Federal / State Point of Contact Worksheet

NOTE: All forms are bound separately and are located in the State EOC.